

4 December 1981
MAU-1073

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Austrian Bureau -- November 1981

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The bureau pulled all the stops this month, filing over 700,000 words for the first time since May 1972. The high word count was due primarily to the Albanians who held their eighth party congress the first week of the month. During this period, we coordinated closely with London which assumed coverage of the extended ATA evening casts which went well beyond the bureau's normal 2200 GMT closing time. We were also "talked at" seemingly without end by Romanian's Ceausescu who gave a record 10 speeches in November.

2. The editors and monitors benefited from an 18 November visit by P.W. Ledgard, editor of the BBC's Eastern Europe SWB, who brought a new list of requirements and told us what life was like on the other end of the VCVC line.

B. Communications

1. With the Austrian PTT's confirmation of the British Telecom International order, real progress seems to have been made in getting the proposed second Vienna-Caversham circuit installed. Austrian PTT now believes it can connect our end of the line by 18 January. To sidestep any financial problems, the bureau has arranged to pay the \$2,000 plus Austrian portion of the monthly costs directly to the PTT. Meanwhile, bureau techs spent considerable time rearranging equipment racks to accommodate everything required for the new circuitry.

2. In early November, Siemens technicians delivered and installed a new Siemens-Fernschreiber 1000 telex machine to replace the bureau's older Siemens equipment.

C. Lateral Services

The local ICA representative continued to rely on us for various videocassette recordings from Austrian TV, the most important this month being President Reagan's 18 November speech outlining his "zero option."

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

- ✓ 1. Recruitment efforts for additional Polish and Yugoslav monitors continued throughout the month. London Bureau has again stepped in to help, this time by placing an ad in THE DAILY TELEGRAPH after an initially promising Polish candidate, who had originally applied to PMU, did not work out. As for our Yugoslav vacancy, a well-qualified young lady currently living in Geneva passed all our tests with a minimum of trouble and is now deciding whether to continue her application. Unfortunately, she is a Yugoslav passport holder which presents problems for her personally and possibly for us from a security point of view.
- ✓ 2. Our new Polish monitor, [] joined us on the 16th, turning in his first piece of copy the first day on the job as part of our "total immersion" program.
3. The bureau chief was pleased to pass on HQs congratulations to junior editor [] who was promoted to GS-9 as of 1 November.

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B. Other

1. The bureau was reminded by Al-Qadhdhafi's threats that Vienna is not necessarily the quiet and safe place it appears. As a result of the Libyan threat and the assassination attempt in Paris, Ambassador Cummings chaired a 16 November embassy security watch committee meeting to discuss the situation here (the memorandum of the minutes has been pouched to Chief/Admin).
2. Philip Agee was in the news here when he delivered a speech at the Vienna University auditorium the day after Thanksgiving on the U.S. "threat" to Latin America. Several people from the bureau attended out of curiosity to hear the bete noire in person, but in general were both bored and disappointed with the canned presentation before a well-packed and predominately student audience which did not hesitate to applaud loudly on cue.

3. The bureau got new wheels this month as our smoky blue Opel Rekord wagon arrived 27 November.

III. VISITS

To the bureau: P.W. Ledgard, BBC, 18 November.

IV. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Much to his surprise, senior editor [] was told by the military billeting people at the General Walker Hotel in Berchtesgaden that his mid-month reservations could not be honored due to a new regulation denying access to all embassy personnel outside Germany. This new regulation, which the local DAO office has just received, is most unfortunate since it applies to all armed forces recreation centers, including Chiemsee, the favorite watering hole en route to Munich.

FOR THE CHIEF, AUSTRIAN BUREAU

[]
Deputy Chief
FBIS Austrian Bureau

Attachments:

Production Report
Nonstaff Personnel Report
Staff Personnel Report

cc: Chief, FBIS London Bureau